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December 18, 2002

Box Response
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

SUBJECT: Applicant: Smith et al.
 Serial No: 09/976,389
 Filed: October 12, 2001
 For: LAUNCHER PLATFORM
 Examiner: Chambers, Troy
 Group: 3641
 Docket No: RAY-120J

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a RESPONSE in reply to the Office Action mailed September 20, 2002 in the subject application. Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$612.00 for six (6) additional independent claims and a total of six (6) additional claims in excess of twenty.

If for any reason this RESPONSE is found to be INCOMPLETE, or if at any time it appears that a TELEPHONE CONFERENCE with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts at (781) 890-5678.

If any payment during prosecution is found to be incorrect, please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to my Deposit Account No. 09-0002. A copy of this letter is enclosed for use by the Finance Branch in the event that it is necessary to make any charge or credit to my deposit account.

In addition, pursuant to Rule 1.136(a)(3), the Office is hereby authorized to treat any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Also, any request or Petition for an Extension of Time notwithstanding an inadvertent reference in the Petition to a shorter period of time is to be treated as requesting the appropriate length of time.

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Kindly acknowledge receipt of the foregoing by returning the enclosed self-addressed postcard.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Thompkins, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,136

TET:ci
Enclosures

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Box Response, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on December 18, 2002.


Casey Iandiorio